

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.”

Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 234.6, the Department of Human Services proposes to amend Chapter 58, “Emergency Assistance,” Iowa Administrative Code.

These amendments implement the Iowans Helping Iowans Unmet Needs Disaster Assistance Program for the counties which were presidentially declared as disaster areas after June 1, 2010. The program is intended to address disaster-related expenses that cannot be met by other financial assistance.

Funding for the program is established by the Governor of Iowa through the Iowans Helping Iowans Program. The Rebuild Iowa Office will establish a methodology to distribute the funding among the counties in the presidentially declared disaster areas. The program will end when funds are exhausted or on June 30, 2011, whichever occurs first.

The program provides assistance for repair or replacement of personal property, home repair, food assistance, child care, and temporary housing to households whose income is less than 300 percent of the federal poverty level. The amount of assistance available to a household is capped at \$2,500.

The program will be administered through a local administrative entity designated by the county board of supervisors in each of the affected counties. The local administrative entity shall enter into a contract with the Department that delineates the entity’s responsibilities for the administration of the program. The local administrative entity will receive applications from households and determine each household’s eligibility for the program.

The local administrative entity shall disburse the funds allocated to the county by the Rebuild Iowa Office through direct reimbursement of documented expenses or issuance of vouchers for purchase of approved goods or services. The local administrative entity may keep up to 5 percent of the amount of benefits issued as administrative expense. The local administrative entity is required to submit weekly reports on program expenditures and to return any unused funds from its allocation when the program ends.

These amendments do not provide for waivers in specified situations. Requests for the waiver of any rule may be submitted under the Department’s general rule on exceptions at 441—1.8(17A,217).

These amendments were also Adopted and Filed Emergency and are published herein as **ARC 9130B**. The purpose of this Notice is to solicit comment on that submission, the subject matter of which is incorporated by reference.

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendments on or before October 26, 2010. Comments should be directed to Mary Ellen Imlau, Bureau of Policy Coordination, Department of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, 1305 East Walnut Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0114. Comments may be sent by fax to (515)281-4980 or by E-mail to policyanalysis@dhs.state.ia.us.

These amendments are intended to implement Iowa Code section 234.6.